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Nov 7, 2000



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ELECTION 2000

The Bottom Line:

Gore/Bush And Black Issues



Gore



Bush

Affirmative Action

Continue the mend it, don't end it approach; opposes California's Prop 209-like programs.

Profiling

Will introduce bill to outlaw profiling. Supports presidential order to study race/police.

Reparations

Will continue to fight opportunity gaps and expand economic opportunity in African American markets.

Media/Ethnic Minorities

Urge U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the FCC to play watchdog on ethnic and race bias.

Affordable Housing

Continued support of housing vouchers, new Low-income housing tax credit, continued development of HUD.

Police Accountability

Supports integrity in ethics training: civilian review boards and community policing models.

Federal Judgeships

Will continue appointing qualified women and minorities.

Hate Crimes

Supports the Hate Crimes Prevention Act to also include gender, sexual orientation and gender.

Mandatory Minimums

Supports alternatives to incarceration such as prevention and policing; also, review the three strikes crime laws.

Violence / Women

Expand Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement Act; give women full protection under VAWA across state lines.

Supreme Court

Will seek judicial appointees who value diversity.

Cocaine Sentencing Disparity

Will work for reform.

Minimum Wage

Supports \$1. increase; Supports earned Income Tax Credit increase.

Employment Non-Discrimination Act

Supports the Act.

School Vouchers

Opposes.

Africa Trade

Supports Clinton initiatives such as New Africa Investment Fund and Africa Trade and Opply. Act.

Affirmative Action

No on Affirmative Action; supports "Affirmative Access".

Profiling

Opposes profiling.

Reparations

No support for reparations.

Media/Ethnic Minorities

Enforce federal discrimination laws.

Affordable Housing

Supports increasing Low Income Housing Tax Credit; increasing the number of voucher programs, i.e. section 8.

Police Accountability

Law enforcement is a state issue.

Federal Judgeships

Will support judges who share conservative philosophy.

Hate Crimes

Financial assistance to local jurisdictions with low resources.

Mandatory Minimums

Supports Mandatory Minimums.

Violence / Women

Supports punishment of all criminals; increase penalties for repeat offenders.

Supreme Court

Will nominate judges who share conservative philosophy.

Cocaine Sentencing Disparity

Increase sentencing for powder cocaine.

Minimum Wage

Increase in wage with option-out clause for states.

Employment Non-Discrimination Act

No support for federal intervention. But will enforce anti-discrimination law.

School Vouchers

Supports school vouchers after three years.

Africa Trade

Supports Trade and Development.

NAACP urges blacks to "Lift Every Voice and Vote"

NJWARK — The Newark Branch NAACP's biggest fund raiser this year presented the theme, "Lift Every Voice ... and Vote!" And the clear reference to the Black National Anthem was not lost on the hundreds of participants at a downtown hotel for the gala Freedom Fund dinner Oct. 27. On their minds and in their conversations were black power and the Nov. 7 march to the polls.

"Our immediate focus is to get all voters to the polls on election day, Nov. 7, 2000, one of the most important elections of our time," according to Newark NAACP President Daniel Williams. "Please vote; it can mean the difference between good and evil, right and wrong, justice and injustice.

If you vote, you can then ask, "What are you going to do with us?" as we prepare to march upon the new millennium," Debra R. Jennings, "It is important to consider carefully those that represent us, as their work will have much impact on our lives and our future. Let us utilize the power of the ballot to ensure that our best interest is considered."

Nationally, the NAACP, through a sister organization called the NAACP National Voter Fund, is waging an unprecedented \$7 million campaign to educate and mobilize voters on issues that affect minority communities.

The NVF, unlike the nonpartisan NAACP, is intensely involved in the in-your-face kind of political warfare that includes strong political advertising about the candidates. Neither group is working along with any candidate for public office.

One ad asserts, beneath a picture of a black motorist stopped by a white billy-club-wielding cop, that "Driving while black shouldn't be a crime." While it calls for citizens to write Gov. George W. Bush and "Stop the madness," this example, like other NVF ads, never calls for them to vote for any candidate.

The NVF created Americans For Equality to lobby and carry out issue advocacy. Other ads in the campaign support education over prisons or remind voters that their children's future is at stake.

Several states are considered "battlefields" where the presidential battle between Bush and Al Gore could easily hinge on the number of black votes.

In New Jersey, scores of staff members and volunteers have been organizing and leafleting in Newark, Atlantic City and other key areas, driving home the need for participation along with the candidates' records and positions on the issues.

State Senator and Newark Mayor Sharpe James said, "Too many people have died and spilled their blood so we could have the right to vote." Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer—and she was beaten and thrown in jail and what was her crime? Why'd they beat her and throw her in jail? She wanted the right to vote!

In South Africa, James said, black citizens stood in 115-degree heat, over miles 20 miles long to exercise their right. "And when it was over, Nelson Mandela was the president of all South Africa, black and white. In America, some of us could live on the sec-



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

HOLMDEL — Monmouth County Park System schedules "Clay-Ful Creatures." Showtime is from 4-5 p.m. For further information call Robina Schepp at (732) 842-4000, ext. 4237 from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

CRAINFORD — Union County Division of Continuing Education will be offering free non-credit course to senior citizens. The next set of courses will begin on Nov. 7. For more information call (908) 709-7501.

NEWARK — Vacations, Evenings, on the Town, Great Gifts On The Auction Block To Benefit Huntington's Disease. For further information call (609) 448-3500.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 6

LINCROFT — Monmouth County Park System to Host "Kids Can Crochet". For further information call (732) 842-4000.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

WESTFIELD — Transition Fair to Highlight Options for Transitioning Students with Special Needs at 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For further information contact Sols Okinwo at (908) 820-3112.

COLTS NECK — The Monmouth County Parks

System is offering, beginning Nov. 7, on how to bake and decorate a holiday gingerbread house at the Dorbrook Visitor Center 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Pre registration is required. For more information call (732) 542-1642.

LINCROFT — Rare Bird Expedition Scheduled By Monmouth County Park Systems. For further information call (732) 842-4000, and for the hearing impaired (732) 219-9484.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2 DECEMBER 14

HOWELL — Monmouth County Park System Schedules "Kids Rock." For further information call (732) 842-4000, and for the hearing impaired call (732) 219-9484.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

CRAINFORD — Children's "Storytime" Returns To Union County College from 7-8 p.m. For further information call Mark Spina at (908) 659-5189.

ATLANTIC CITY — Atlantic City Hosts a Variety Of November Trade Shows. The Glass Show 2000, for further information call (609) 449-7126.

WAYNE — William Paterson University Sociologists To Lecture On Political And Social Impact Of HBO TV Show, "The Sopranos." For further information call (973) 720-2444.

Fax community calendar events to:

973-642-5444.

Send to: City News Calendar,
111 Mulberry St., Suite 1-F,
Newark, NJ 07102.

E-mail to:

CityNews_news@hotmail.com.
Send
information at least
three weeks prior to the event.

Three honored for dedication to education and academia

New York — The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, Inc. (TMSF) hosted its 13th Anniversary Awards Dinner on Oct. 30 at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers. The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund annual awards dinner honored three leaders from business, education and academia.

The award honorees were Thomas D. Motola, chairman and CEO of Sony Music Entertainment, Inc. for Corporate Leadership; Dr. Eddie N. Moore, Jr., president of Virginia State University for Education Leadership; and Dr. William E. Cox, president of Black Issues in Higher Education magazine for Alumni Leadership.

TMSF, the only national organization that awards four-year merit scholarships to students attending historically black public colleges and universities (HBCUs) and provides capacity building and programmatic support to 40 HBCUs that are TMSF member schools. TMSF has awarded nearly \$10.7 million in scholarships monies and programmatic support to its 40 member schools during its 13-year history.



Thomas Motola



Dr. Eddie N. Moore, Jr.



Dr. William E. Cox

The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund 13th Anniversary Awards Dinner's reception and silent auction begins at 6:00 p.m. The dinner and awards program begins at 7 p.m. Emmy Award-winning television actress Lynn Whitfield, who is also a graduate of a TMSF member school, will host the awards dinner program.

The awards dinner co-chairs

were James B. Adamson, president

and CEO of Denny's, Inc. and Thomas J. McInerney, president of Aetna Financial Services. Co-sponsors are Standard & Poor's and Denny's. The Annual Campaign Chair is John D. Motola, president and CEO, Miller Brewing Company and Corporate Campaign Chair is John Esposito, chairman and CEO of Schieffelin & Somers Co.

"Our annual awards dinner is an opportunity to recognize men and women who embody the focus

of TMSF and that is to prepare a new generation of leaders," said Virgie W. Colbert, chairman of the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, Inc. "Our honorees, Thomas D. Motola, Dr. Eddie Moore and Dr. William Cox, have all demonstrated exemplary leadership in supporting TMSF's mission to award merit scholarships to deserving young people and to provide capacity building and program support to our 40 member schools."

Civil Liberties, Civil Rights

New Jersey City University held a recent panel discussion on "Civil Liberties, Civil Rights: The U.S. Supreme Court vs. We, the People," the inaugural program in the series, "Conversations at Twilight: Academic Dialogues for the Evening Community," presented by NJCU's Office of Academic Services for Evening Students and funded by a grant from the NJCU Foundation.

Pictured are Joanie Bruno (left), NJCU assistant vice president for academic affairs, greeted panelists (from the right): attorney Juan Cartagena, general counsel for the Community Service Society; The Honorable Glenn D. Cunningham, U.S. Marshal for the District of New Jersey; and Deborah Jacobs, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey.



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NATIONAL BRIEFS

Death Penalty opponents demand moratorium

PHILADELPHIA — With the death penalty facing intense scrutiny in the city that has sent more people to death than most states, opponents of capital punishment staged a nonviolent civil disobedience action last week, at the office of District Attorney Lynne Abraham.

Despite the glaring economic and racial discrimination in death sentencing that have made

Philadelphia the focus of international condemnation, Abraham's office continues to ignore the voices of legal experts, state senators, religious leaders, human rights organizations and even her own

City Council, all of whom have called for a moratorium on executions. The need for a moratorium became even clearer recently when William Nieves, wrongly convicted during Abraham's tenure, became a free man after spending eight years on the state's death row.

Pennsylvania Abolitionists United Against the Death Penalty held a sit-in at Abraham's office. In February, the City Council voted overwhelmingly in favor of the non-binding resolution, prompting city councils in Pittsburgh, Erie, Harrisburg and York to pass similar measures. The Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Bar Associations also have called for a moratorium on executions.

Residents cry racism after barrier is built between towns

SAUGET, Ill. (AP) — Several tons of crushed rock, assortments of 55-gallon drums and wood barriers piled in the middle of a narrow road are a racial barrier, meant to prevent black motorists from entering Sauget, say officials of East St. Louis.

The barricade blocking the narrow road between predominantly black East St. Louis and mostly white Sauget was constructed in June. Sauget officials say the barricade was built to prevent reckless drivers from using the small road as a shortcut to Cahokia, another city along the Mississippi River.

East St. Louis Township Supervisor Will McGaughy said he was deceived by Sauget officials who pushed in February for jurisdiction over the road, which was being maintained by St. Clair County.

McGaughy, who is black, said he was led to believe the village of 197 residents would merely assume responsibility for maintaining the road, not build barricades between the communities. He said the barricade is intended to keep blacks away from the home of Sauget's mayor, Paul Sauget, who lives on the road.

NAACP offering \$3 bounty for new voters

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — The NAACP's Huntsville chapter is offering a bounty of \$3 for every new voter registered by churches and other civic groups.

The offer is advertised on "wanted" posters that read, "Your vote is a terrible thing to waste."

The drive is part of the group's national voter registration campaign, but the NAACP said cash rewards are not being offered anywhere else.

"It's something that's unique to Huntsville," spokeswoman Jean Ross said last Tuesday from NAACP headquarters in Baltimore, Md. The Alabama attorney general's office said the offer is legal as long as the NAACP is not paying someone to vote. But Secretary of State Jim Bennett, Alabama's chief elections official, called the promotion "abhorrent" and said it cheapens the election process.

No support for affirmative action by Bush lead Gore team to urge black press for strong voter turnout Nov 7

By Raoul Dennis
Managing Editor NNPA

WASHINGTON DC (NNPA)

— Leadership within the Gore campaign team discussed their plan for the next two weeks of Election 2000, the critical differences between the presidential candidates and the importance of the Black vote on Nov. 7 in a recent discussion with the Black Press of America. Gore campaign manager Donna Brazile, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman deliberated in heated tones with Black editors their message that the Black vote is critical to the continued economic and social prosperity of Black communities over the next four years.

The Black Press of America is a federation of over 200 Black news media representatives by the National Newspaper Publishers Association. It reaches over 15 million readers weekly.

Brazile, Herman, and Norton especially noted the last presidential debates in which Gov. Bush (R-TX) indicated that his tax plan would, in fact, benefit America's wealthiest and his awkward response to questions on Affirmative Action. On that issue, the Texas governor said that he did not support Affirmative Action but instead, "Affirmative Access," an unknown, unidentified term among experts on the issue.

"There is no such thing as affirmative access," said Norton. "Bush has been a master of deflection. He does that whenever he knows that he can't adequately answer the question for the people who asked it."

The group aggressively noted the stakes involved in the election and that African Americans are facing a critical test.

"Black people traditionally go to the polls when they are mad. We came out and elected Clinton when there was a recession," Norton explained. "When we thought Clinton would be tossed out, we came out. This [election] is a test for African Americans. If we do that again because we are comfortable, we will get what we deserve."

Norton and Brazile referred to the Supreme Court appointments by the next president, the intended Bush tax plan which favors America's richest one percent, Bush's poor record on equal employment, race relations and even police profiling.

"Al Gore has gone on record saying that the first bill he would send to Congress would outlaw racial profiling," Norton said. She pointed out that neither Bush nor his running mate Dick Cheney has made commitments as strong.

When asked how the Gore presidency would support poor African Americans, Herman went to the vice president's plan to increase the minimum wage, allow those below the poverty level to have all medical costs covered and his college aid plan.

"You have to look at the entire Gore plan," Herman said, urging voters to watch what she perceives as pitfalls in the Bush record on similar issues. "Governer Bush's plan does call for a minimum wage increase, but it also includes a clause for states to opt out [of utilizing it]," she said.

The group was also asked about Gore's intentions with cabinet nominees should he be elected.

"The vice president has had one of the most diverse presidential campaigns in the nation's history," Brazile said. "He has promised to match the level of diversity of the current administration and to surpass it." When asked about specific names, the group declined.

Although the presidential race is close, it was noted that the

Democratic effort to take control of the House is gaining momentum. Brazile said that undecided voters were key in tipping the scales.

"Fifteen to twenty percent of Americans are still making decisions as we speak," Brazile said. "We are strongly stressing the

economy, the current prosperity and the contrast between our agenda and theirs."

Toward that end, Norton drove home the point: "There are real race issues left in this country and we see nothing on Bush's record that would indicate that he would address those issues. The veto and

the power of the president is the most powerful tool Blacks have had over the last eight years. Poverty and employment are the lowest it has ever been but that could keep African Americans at home if they don't realize what is at stake."

Texas health commissioner resigns over racial remarks

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas health commissioner resigned last Monday after being accused of making racially insensitive comments to a black former employee.

William "Reyn" Archer III, 46, whose 1997 appointment by the Health and Human Services Department's governing board had been approved by Gov. George W. Bush, had taken heavy criticism during the past year from minority groups over comments he made about Hispanics and blacks.

Bush, the Republican Party's presidential candidate, had supported Archer through his previous controversies but pulled back last week, calling Archer's latest comments "inappropriate."

Dr. Demetria Montgomery, who was a top-level administrator in the department before she was fired last month, had secretly tape-recorded a Friday meeting with Archer who is white.

On the tape, Archer can be heard making references to "lynching" and suggesting Montgomery use her brain to advance her career and "that's what white people do."

Health and Human Services Commissioner Don Gilbert announced Archer's resignation.

"Reyn Archer has served as an energetic and dedicated public health official and I thank him for this year of service to the state of Texas," Gilbert said.

Work as a second language

By Sabrina Jones
The (Raleigh) News & Observer
AP Member Exchange

RALEIGH (AP) — Paul Pope Jr. has a deep, mellifluous voice. His flow smooths and clearly, just as you would expect from anyone who has worked 33 years in broadcasting.

So he was amazed recently when he had a meeting in his Durham office with a retired professor from his alma mater, N.C. Central University, and was told: "I am very surprised that you are African American." Before the meeting, the two had talked on the phone.

"He said to me he was surprised to see I was a brother because he was convinced I was white," says Pope. "That's hard for me to get because I try to be very professional on the phone. When I talk to my buddies, to my frat brothers, I may slip a few profanities in there, but I know that's not appropriate at work ... I am very formal on the phone until I reach that comfort zone."

Pope developed his corporate style over the years he spent working his way up from a position on a camera crew in the '60s station manager of WRAL-TV Fox 50. He considers it the result of growing older, growing up. He doesn't believe there's a "white" sound distinct from a "black" sound or see himself as having two identities.

But many black professionals say that to shift between two words — the corporation and their community — they must use two faces, speak two languages. The adjustments can be as subtle as changing the inflection of their voices or as deliberate as eliminating esoteric words.

Most people have a workplace voice and demeanor, but for blacks, the adjustments aren't always seen as simple professionalism. They feel pressure — sometimes self-imposed — to fit into corporate America in order to succeed. To many blacks, getting ahead means blending into another culture — anything different means standing out, and not necessarily in a good way.

As a consequence, they sometimes hear remarks that they "didn't sound black on the phone" — as well as accusations that they are rejecting their culture, or not being "black enough."

The issue, a sensitive one for blacks, is widespread among professionals of color in corporate America, says Dr. Sandra Slipp, a management specialist who co-wrote the book, "From the Outside In: Seven Strategies for Success When You're Not a Member of the Dominant Group in Your Workplace".

But the issue is deeper than the tone of voice or words used in the office. At its heart are old fears about stereotyping.

"A certain cultural tendency for blacks is to be expressive and strong and say it as it is, and some see that as aggressive," Slipp says. The challenge is to make necessary changes without losing your self-respect, she adds.

"We always adapt," she said. "You speak to your grandparents differently than you speak to your teen-age friend. It doesn't mean you're giving up who you are."



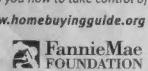
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Vote
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November
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EDITORIAL

Al Gore endorsed by City News

Bush plans to turn back the clock, Gore seeks a future that is inclusive

For many, the question between voting for Gore or Bush is who is more qualified? Both come from a family with a long history in politics and the Washington scene. Both have degrees from prestigious Ivy League universities. However, only one has the experience of managing the country under the best peace economy ever and one of the most bitter divisions between Congress and the White House. Al Gore has the experience from the top. While Bush is playing the compassionate conservative role to offset the Newt connection, by implications, he has the same goals, to roll back the connection on civil rights gains. His campaign has shown little or no genuine thought. He sees leading by dividing, like his brother, in Florida who abhorred affirmative action. Gore is more experienced, recognizes the value of diversity and the need to build the economic engine of the cities. Bush seems to have little to say about rebuilding the urban core. We believe Al Gore is the best qualified candidate to lead America as President into the New Millennium. His experience in Congress, international affairs, and the domestic theater far out weights Bush's role as Governor of the State of Texas. This year is a critical year for African Americans to turn out to vote. If you don't, Bush's goal is to carry out Newt's contract on you.

Gore will continue Clinton's civil rights record

NNPA Editorial

In any objective and thoughtful consideration of who would be the most responsive and effective president on issues of importance to African Americans, we pose the following questions:

Which of the two major presidential candidates, Al Gore or George W. Bush, has demonstrated genuine interest in and commitment to the cause of civil rights prior to this election campaign season?

Which of the two candidates publicly supports those issues of top priority to African Americans, i.e. improvement in the quality of public education, expanded health care, affordable prescription drugs, and an end to the vestiges of racism such as racial profiling?

Which of the presidential contenders has committed to field a team truly representative of racial diversity and implement a program consistent with the interests and needs of the African American community?

Which of the candidates will make appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court more in the tradition of the late Justice Thurgood Marshall?

Since President Bill Clinton has made history as one of the most pro-civil rights presidents in the history of the American republic, which of the two candidates is best suited to building on the outstanding record of Mr. Clinton?

There are other pertinent questions that could be raised,

We know for a fact that our future civil rights progress and the advancement of African Americans as full citizens in this American democratic enterprise depend on the outcome of the presidential election.

but let us stop here. We know for a fact that our future civil rights progress and the advancement of African Americans as full citizens in this American democratic enterprise depend on the outcome of the presidential election. We must exercise wisdom and our best judgment in selecting the team we entrust to lead our country and our cause for the next four years. And then we must go to the polls in a massive numbers to elect the candidate of our choice.

Based on any objective and forthright responses to the questions raised above, we must conclude that the choice we must make, without any doubt, is the person who has been the partner of President Clinton for the past eight years, and the person whose team includes members of the Congressional Black Caucus, most of the Black mayors and other elected officials, is Vice President Al Gore.

Let us not become confused over style versus substance. As American Americans who have struggled, fought, and worked hard to be where we are today, we know the difference between what's real and what's jive.

We certainly don't need to be co-opted and misled by the pedagogical and fuzzy-thinking mainstream media and biased think groups. We have too much at stake to play that game.

Don't be ambushed on Nov. 7

By Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

If Texas is a microcosm of the world under George W. Bush, then hold onto your saddles partners because we are in for a wild ride to nowhere.

African Americans, Hispanics and especially children are in jeopardy if this little Texas shrub grows into the Bush who nuns the nation.

As a Texas legislator for more than 30 years, I can truthfully say George W.'s legacy is one of failure, particularly as it relates to children.

In the last debate, Governor Bush, led people to believe that he was a strong supporter of the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

This program provides coverage for children in families, many of whom are the working poor, who don't qualify for Medicaid and can't afford private insurance.

It is an appalling stretch of untruths.

First of all, Texas ranks second to last (49 out of 50) in the nation in the percentage of children without health insurance. About 1.4 million children are uninsured. Instead of fighting for children, he actually fought to expand their coverage.

In fact, although Texas recently had the largest surplus in the state's history, Bush's initial 1999 budget proposal for CHIP would have denied coverage to 220,000 kids covered under the Democratic plan.

To make matters worse, Texas, under Bush, has actually put road blocks to health coverage for kids, either through negligence or mismanagement. This year, Texas is in danger of losing an estimated \$449 million in federal funding for CHIP because the state got a late start. State officials did not start enrolling children in CHIP until May 2,000 one year after it was approved by the Texas legislature and three years after Congress approved the appropriations for state matching funds.

We have no time to lose and no money to waste, while poor children are beset with unnecessary health issues, the direct result of lack of access to decent health care. This is why I recently wrote a letter to federal officials in an attempt to extend the deadline for federal funding for CHIP, so the unused money could

I cringe for the nation, especially the children, if the George W. Bush of Texas becomes president of the USA.

be used for children.

Our children are ours, yet this is an area where George W.'s record is indefensible. If we allow Bush to take this record of failure on the road to Nov. 7 and plant it in every state in the union, in your house and my house, we are endangering our future. Instead of building on the progress of a strong economy and a compassionate government, we will march backwards where poor kids fight for crumbs from the tables of the rich.

Let's look at other areas. Did you know that several Texas ranks near the bottom in a report that rates the "best places in the USA to raise a child"? According to a 1999 Children's Rights Council study Texas rated 48th in the nation in best places to raise children, which is down from 29th when Bush took office. The study measured 10 factors, including child immunization, death and birth rates, high school drop out rates and percentage of teen pregnancy.

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Each time I hear George W. cite the familiar Children's Defense Fund's phrase about "leaving no child behind," I know from experience it is meaningless rhetoric.

I cringe for the nation, especially the children, if the George W. Bush of Texas becomes president of the USA.

We must reexamine the way children are educated

By Barato Britt
The Black Press of America

When you control a man's thinking, you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him to stand here or go yonder. He will find his "proper place" and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is not a back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary.

— Carter G. Woodson, *The Miseducation of the Negro*, 1933

In our apathy and reluctance to address different educational options, we have forgotten that ours is the power to change.

children are educated in the struggle for true economic and social emancipation, the new movement for civil rights in the Black community starts with the proper education of its youth.

A wealth of options are explored in this new millennium fight for the minds of Black children. Proposals such as charter schools, home schooling, educational tax credits, "No Excuses" public schools and the ever-controversial issue of vouchers remain on the table of debate; all the while, Black children continue to fall through the cracks.

Testing remains an issue that divides the Black community, as those in favor show evidence of the most impoverished Black children achieving at the highest level in certain environments, while opponents contend bias

remains a factor in such a nationwide educational gauge. More importantly, the condition in which our children are subjected has contributed to the community-wide apathy that boggles the minds of education reformers around the nation.

The education resolution to the education dilemma is the prevailing issue in this new movement for Black empowerment. However, those that broker educational change in the Black community are only as strong as their constituents, or the special interests that lobby their ears when we do not.

The battle for educational equity is a battle for power. In our apathy and reluctance to address different educational options, we have forgotten that ours is the power to change.

When we actualize that power, we will move forward to change the system in a manner that is equitable to all Black children.

The question facing this new millennium movement for educational equity is simple.

How much longer will we accept a system that continually fails our community and our children? Hopefully, the action that dictates the answer is forthcoming.

Is the Constitution unconstitutional?

By Lloyd Williams

The United States legal system has never been more in need of an overhaul.

Why? Because of the widespread resentment of it engendered by a rising consciousness. Routinely, the guilty walk and the innocent are imprisoned, and everybody knows it. Our kids are growing up with the cynical but functionally accurate idea that if you have the right or power or fame, then you can have the law.

The trials of the century, OJ, Diallo, Mumia have left the populace no longer expecting the system to validate the truth. The option of jury nullification has put the political and the criminal justice industrial complex on a collision course, because the system would mandate popular participation in the exponential expansion of the prison population. Yet, there is well-reasoned resistance to an antiquated jurisprudence founded on pathological fallacies.

Do you ever ask yourself who goes to prison and why? The bulk of the inmates in prison are poor, non-white males sent there for drug violations. Are these innately evil, dangerous threats to society who need to be caged like animals?

Or might they themselves be the unfortunate victims of a racist system which specifically targets the downtrodden?

The scales of justice have always been tipped in favor of the rich under the guise of being evenly-balanced. In this country, lawyers, armed with arcane language and sheer arrogance, have for over 300 years rationalized and implemented the most heinous mistreatment of the disenfranchised. And they always rely on the unassimilable Constitution, extolling its virtues as the perfect document created by practically perfect framers.

But most of those framers of the Constitution were rich slaveholders who declared war after war on Native Americans until whites had all the land and reds were almost extinct. These framers set up a legal

system whose primary function was to oppress minorities while masquerading as God-ordained source of impartiality.

Why else do you think they designed courthouses to look like churches? Why is the judge up on the bench in black robes, looking like a minister in a pulpits?

Why is there a like a her like a church, cordonning off the "holy" area where only lawyers dare tread? Why high ceilings? Why the pews, instead of chairs?

Why do lawyers use Latin like clerics?

And why do you think they have sworn on the Bible, if the Constitution mandates a separation of Church and State?

Because they want you to confuse their man-made decisions with the word of God, that's why.

Do you mind if I ask a common sense question? If the Constitution was so great, why had it needed so many changes? It had to be amended to prohibit slavery, to give women the

right to vote, to guarantee freedom of speech, to ensure the freedom of religion, to allow the right to assemble and to abolish cruel and unusual punishment. It even had to be amended to give Americans equal protection under the law. What does that tell you?

In my view, then, the function of the Constitution has always been more of a limiter; a means of population control than as any guarantor of individual liberties. I have been attacked as unpatriotic for challenging the Constitution's constitutionality in this way, but patriotism is usually the last refuge of those without any argument.

It is simply sick, and evil to, by way of anticipating design, plan for the incarceration of millions of young boys whose only crime is being born black and/or white in a country where the poor and the non-white don't count. If the only answer lawyers have for the immense chasm between the haves and the have nots is bigger cages, how long can we afford to let idea-bereft, moral cowards make the rules?

...the Constitution has always been more of a limiter; a means of population control than as any guarantor of individual liberties.

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Senate OKs bill imposing mandatory sentence for theft of a gun

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — The state Senate on Monday voted unanimously to impose a mandatory prison term of three years on anyone who steals a gun.

The bill (S-1494), sponsored by Sen. C. Louis Bassano, R-Union, and Louis F. Kosco, R-Bergen, was passed 37-0 and now goes to the Assembly.

The current law makes the theft of a firearm punishable by up to five years in prison. The proposed bill would make someone convicted of stealing a gun serve a minimum of three years without being eligible for parole.

Supporters of the minimum term say stolen guns are often used by criminals to commit other crimes and a tougher penalty would cut down on thefts.

By Hanah Cho
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — For the first time, anyone wanting to examine crime statistics from colleges and universities in New Jersey and around the country can find them all in one place — the Internet.

Seton Hall University officials submitted the school's campus crime figures to the U.S. Department of Education three

weeks before the first federal deadline requiring their release.

But the university's report is missing on the department's Web site, where crime reports from a majority of 6,700 colleges and universities were due by last Tuesday.

"I can't explain it," said President Lorraine, assistant vice president of student affairs at Seton Hall University in South Orange. "With anything new, there's bound to be a few glitches."

Other Garden State institutions

have complied with a new provision of the 1990 campus security law requiring colleges to compile crime statistics to help students and parents gauge campus safety. After years of inconsistent compliance, the 1998 provision, effective this year, required schools to submit their crime figures to the federal government for public release.

As of last Friday, crime figures from Rutgers University, Princeton, Drew University, Kean University, The College of New Jersey and William Paterson University could

standards set by the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting that includes criminal and hate offenses, and arrest figures from 1997 to 1999.

Rutgers, Princeton, The College of New Jersey and Princeton University had more than 100 reported incidents of alcohol-related disciplinary action in 1999

— a number consistent with the previous two years.

Many of the colleges, including Drew, William Paterson and Kean universities, had some reported cases of burglary, assault and forcible sex offenses in 1999.

Princeton University's crime prevention specialist, Barry Weiser, said like many institutions, the school's most persistent crime problem is theft.

"We spend our resources trying to protect bikes," he said.

Drew University's public safety director, Tom Evans, said most campus crime happens among students. He cited theft as an ongoing problem.

"If you have 20 bucks out in the open, they'll be gone," he said.

Chief Anthony Murphy of Rutgers University's New Brunswick campus police said the new requirement is just another way to make information available to parents and students.

"I think it only makes sense that you have the ability to do that since so many people use the Internet," Evans said.

Evans said he would like the law expanded to include standards for public safety procedures, like background checks and training for security and police officers.

Myra Kodner, of Security on Campus, a Pennsylvania-based advocacy group founded by Cleary's parents, said the reporting of campus crime statistics creates awareness and a more accurate reality of campus life.

"If you don't provide statistics and information," she said, "that false sense of security is what hurts people."

New Jersey shuts down E-ZPass statement site after security breach

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — A security breach has forced New Jersey officials to temporarily shut down a service that allows E-ZPass users to get monthly statements via e-mail.

The decision came after Christopher Reagoso, an E-ZPass user from West Chester, Pa., appeared on Philadelphia television station to tell how he was breaking into the email system.

New Jersey Turnpike Authority Executive Director Edward Gross said the E-ZPass Web site — was not entered and is "totally secure." He said the Web site is separate from the e-mail service and that Reagoso never had access to personal information from the Web site.

"The public is entitled to an absolutely secure system and they have it in the Web site," Edward Gross, executive director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, told The Record of Hackensack.

Gross said drivers can still use the Web site to check their account. The Web site is run by Chase Manhattan Bank, and the separate e-mail service is run by a subcontractor, PSI of Austin, Texas.

Reagoso said that it wasn't hard to break into the system. He discovered that the electronic statements aren't sent directly to drivers via e-mail, but rather drivers are provided with a link to access their accounts.

"It's something that an eighth-grader who designs his own Web page at home is capable of doing," Reagoso said. "It took four accidental keystrokes to display anybody's account."

If he wanted, Reagoso could have tracked the travel patterns of any of the 428,897 drivers who hold E-ZPass accounts through the New Jersey consortium of toll roads, which includes highways in Delaware.

NJ's child protection agency admits its numbers were "flawed"

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — A week after a published report questioned the state child protection agency's reform improvements, the Division of Youth and Family Services has admitted that its numbers showing improvement in how long a child stays in foster care were "flawed."

Spokesman Andrew Williams said the agency has no clear picture of a typical child's experience under DYS's care. He said it is trying to fix the problem.

"Our own data are not very good," Williams told The Asbury Park Press of Neptune.

Meanwhile, state Senator Leonard Connors Jr. said he plans to introduce a bill that would establish independent oversight of an agency that lacks credibility.

Connors, R-Ocean, said several lawmakers have been frustrated with how DYS spends its \$500 million annual budget.

The paper reported last week that the agency failed to reduce the average amount of time children spent in foster care, saying the median time for children in foster care rose from 16 months in October 1997 to 19 months as of this March.

Charles Vento, DYS director

since 1998, said internal reports showed the average time a child spent in foster care dropped from 17.5 months in 1998 to 16.5 months this year.

Williams said the agency expects to develop a system in which it will have more accurate track children in foster care.

"I'll give you better data on which to base decision," he said. "You'll know more about the true experience of kids in our system."

DYS's began a \$128 million reform two years ago after the Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Protection Services issued a critical report in 1998. Gov. Christine Whitman appointed the commission in 1997.

The panel also recommended that Whitman appoint an independent group to oversee its recommendations.

Jayne O'Connor, the governor's spokeswoman, said such a committee is not needed because it would add another layer of government.

The paper also reported that the agency has been unable to reduce the number of children who are abused and neglected in its foster care homes or reduce the number of children who die while under DYS supervision.

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Funding continues to be a problem for charter schools

By Kellieh Sirleaf

Charter schools have been viewed by some as a viable alternative to traditional public schools. In many cases, they are institutes where students receive more individual attention; are taught by non-traditional methods; and according to Vern Gray, director of the Gray Charter Schools in Newark, are responding better than they did in public schools.

The Gray Charter School has been in operation for only two years, and in that time has faced many challenges keeping its doors open, she said.

According to Gray, charter schools receive only 90 percent of state aid for each child served in the schools. The other 10 percent goes to the public school

NAACP

continued from A-1

ond floor with a voting booth here on the first floor and refuse to come down and vote!"

"It's because our ancestors fought so hard and gave their blood that I'm able to be here today," top Prudential executive L. Marilyn Crawford, told the crowd of several hundred in the Robert Treat Hotel ballroom. It was an especially profound statement for Crawford, because she had won a promotion to Vice President for Corporate External Relations at Prudential earlier that day.

Newark Assistant Public Schools Superintendent Anzella Nelms listened from the dais. "Being one of the students who participated in the sit-in down South years ago, I say it's really a sin that so many don't vote, because now we have the power to change what happens in this country."

When people talk about, 'my vote doesn't make a difference,' they don't understand the power of just one vote."

Payne:

Impeach Verniero

(NEWARK) — Urging fellow legislators to resist the temptation to engage in endless vacillation and procrastination, Assemblyman William Payne today called for the impeachment of state Supreme Court Justice Peter Verniero.

Payne (D-Essex) said impeachment proceedings should be undertaken immediately in light of revelations that Verniero, as Attorney General in 1996 and 1997, failed to swiftly and aggressively address obvious evidence of rampant State Police abuse of minority motorists along New Jersey highways.

"more than stretches the bounds of credibility that he could not have known that a problem existed," said Payne.

Moreover, Payne said Verniero's failure to be totally tonight and thorough in his testimony at Senate confirmation hearings on his Supreme Court nomination demonstrate that he is unfit to serve as a Supreme Court Justice.

"Given the new evidence that has come to light, it's obvious to me that Justice Verniero has been more artful than truthful in his accounts of how he handled the racial profiling issue while Attorney General," said Payne, an African-American legislator, and the first to call for Verniero's ouster.

"It has crystallized in my mind that Justice Verniero should be removed from the high judicial office he now holds. In the name of justice, I urge my legislative colleagues to join with me in bringing about Mr. Verniero's impeachment."

Citing published reports on newly released police records, Payne said Verniero ordered a collection of statistics as Attorney General in 1996 that indicated racial profiling was a problem. But Payne said Verniero did not further investigate the profiling for another two years. Payne said it's clear that Verniero attended strategy meetings regarding the state's response to a federal civil rights probe of racial profiling along New Jersey highways.

district located in that municipality, regardless of whether that child is no longer attending regular public school. "Charter schools only receive half of a day of funding per student," she said. The leaders of the charter school would have to raise money for the other half of a day of funding... urban kindergarten children are in school for the entire day," she said.

Because of strict state guides about facility qualification, Gray said, "finding a suitable facility is the next tremendous obstacle that you will have to overcome. No matter how great the idea, mission, teachers, support staff, administrators, and equipment you have, it all means nothing if you do not have a suitable facility. The owner usually refuses to repair the building in order for your school to move in to the building. They expect you to come up with as much as \$200,000 to make repairs on their buildings in order to bring it up to the proper code. They expect you to pay \$20,000 to \$25,000 in rent every month for as little as 10,000 sq. ft."

"Another challenge is that your school has no money at all prior to opening," she said. "However, you are expected to make down payments on a facility, buy many things, and pay staff."

Anne O'Dea, a spokesperson for the New Jersey Department of Education, said the schools are "still awaiting certification; still providing support for these charter schools. So, there is some obligation [by the districts] on behalf of the charter schools."

She said schools have the

ability to receive 100 percent funding, but they must make a special request to Commissioner

David Hespe for appeal of the mandated 90 percent funding they are currently getting.

According to O'Dea, five charter schools have applied for 100 percent funding, however, only two of the requests were approved.

The Newark public school district receives Abbott money for its students. However, charter schools located in Newark do not, according to Gray, even though the schools are located in the district. O'Dea said that in order charter schools to receive Abbott money they would have to conform with standards that

the regular public schools have to meet.

The legislation has a built-in review period. O'Dea said, when the commissioner will examine and detail the state of charter schools and what is working and what is not. That review she said should take place within the next two years.

According to Jeff Oskowski, assistant education commissioner for the state, there are 3,000 children on waiting lists for charter schools.

Fight hunger with the Blues

Atlantic City — Corbin's Soul Food Restaurant on Melrose and New Hampshire Avenues is celebrating its fourth anniversary with a month long "Blues Plate Special." Every Sunday, starting Nov. 5, Corbin's will host Vanessa Toomey & Friends for three live performances, 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person at the door, \$20 in advance. One third of all ticket sales will be donated to the Community FoodBank of NJ to support the efforts of Jean Resor's feeding program in Atlantic City.

Guests are encouraged to bring a canned food item with them to be entered into a special door prize package.

The Community FoodBank supplies nonprofit programs with donated food to help those in need in our area. Over 200 charitable feeding programs throughout Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland Counties benefit from the FoodBank's distribution program. Last year, the Community FoodBank distributed over 2.2 million pounds of groceries to programs like Jean Resor's Kitchen, Atlantic City Rescue Mission and the Salvation Army. For tickets or more information call Dorian at 1-888-352-2406.



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CITY LIFE

November 1 - November 7, 2000

CITY NEWS B1

Driskell shows lifetime collection of African American art

By AMY WESTFELDT
Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — David Driskell got many pieces of his renowned African American art collection for free — gifts from teachers, students and friends.

The 69-year-old University of Maryland professor traded his own paintings with artists like Romare Bearden and Sam Gilliam for more pieces, and bought others to assemble a collection of hundreds of works that fill homes in Maryland, Maine and New York City.

Along the way, he broke a few stereotypes.

"There is the perception out there that African-Americans don't collect," he said from his home in Falmouth, Maine. "It's our human nature to be gatherers and collectors. We could all do it."

Driskell, who is considered to be among the most generous black art collectors if not the biggest, has offered the most extensive look at his collection yet in "Narratives of African American Art and Identity," which just ended a national tour at the Newark Museum of Art.

The more than 100 lithographs, paintings, photographs and sculptures by 60 artists cover a period between 1870 and the present, but Newark Museum curator Joseph Jacobs sees the exhibit as more of a tribute to Driskell's persistence as a collector than a complete history.

"I don't think David exactly set out to put together a collection. I don't think he set out to quote unquote tell a story," Jacobs said.

And yet a story emerges, particularly of the shift from late 19th-century landscapes by black artists to the artists in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1930s and earlier who sought for the first time to express a black voice.

Early paintings of cows, ponds and mountains by artists like Edward Mitchell Bannister and Robert Scott Duncanson reflect attempts to a simulate, producing landscapes like so many other American artists in the late 19th century, Driskell said.

"They wanted to show that they were as good as any other artist," he said. "They could do the same things that artists of the majority culture could do."

By the 1920s and 1930s, however, painters like Aaron Douglas and William H. Johnson and sculptors like Augusta Savage began to produce work that spoke of their culture and of American slavery.

In the watercolors "I Baptize Thee" and "Children Playing London Bridge," Johnson used simplified forms, bright colors and exaggerated physical characteristics to portray black children playing and a group of men baptizing another.

Jacobs called the style "the equivalent of hip-hop vernacular culture" at the time. "That's what Langston Hughes was advocating. That's really what William Johnson was painting."

In 1934's "Go Down Death," Douglas included a star in the left side of his painting of Death riding down from heaven. The star symbolized the North Star that helped lead American slaves to freedom, and it resembled a Soviet



star, Jacobs said.

Savage's most famous sculpture, "Gamin," a 1929 rendering of her young nephew in a street jacket and cap, exemplified the thousands of street-smart young men in New York City's Harlem. And James VanderZee's 1932 photograph of a man and woman getting out of a Cadillac in raccoon fur coats mirrored Harlem's urban prosperity.

In 1938, Wilmer Jennings' wood engraving called "Sull Life" placed an African statue in the center of a portrait of a traditional, Anglo-Saxon scene, a typical technique of Harlem Renaissance artists who wanted to express themselves as both Africans and Americans.

Later works in Driskell's collection include "Morning" and "Urban Street Scene" by Bearden, both using the brightly colored collage style he popularized in the 1970s. "Morning" shows a mother rocking her child near a potbelly stove, while "Urban Street Scene" combines cutouts of a police officer and a storefront church to show the forces dominating black American urban life.

The exhibit also includes a piece of Mel Edwards' "Lynch Fragment" series,

metal sculptures that weld chains, pipes and bolts together to recall the violence of slavery.

The collection will be up at Newark until Feb. 25, including Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, a day when the museum is usually closed. The exhibit opened at the University of Maryland in 1998 and has been shown in San Francisco, Atlanta and at Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

Driskell, who has served as consultant to many of America's black collectors, including Bill Cosby, said he is hopeful the breadth of his collection will inspire other blacks to do the same.

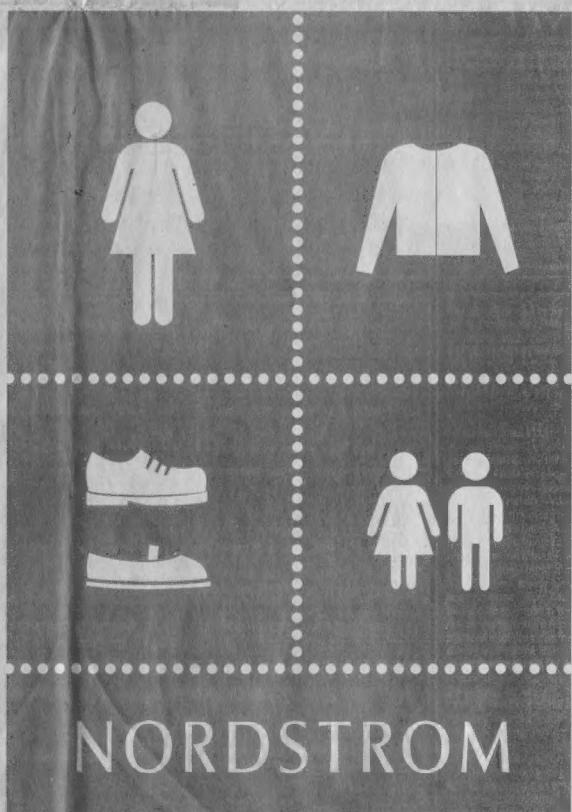
"I'm an ordinary person. I'm not a wealthy person," Driskell said. "I have collected out of interest, out of commitment and with the hopes that my family would carry on this kind of tradition."

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Stay safe, learn fire prevention

TRENTON — The United States has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world. Each year, fire kills more Americans than all natural disasters combined. Direct property loss due to fires is estimated at \$8.6 billion annually.

Here is a look at the leading causes of fire death and injury:

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. It is also the leading cause of home fire injuries. Cooking fires often result from unattended cooking and human error, rather than mechanical failure or stove ovens.

Careless smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths. Smoke alarms and smolder-resistant bedding and upholstered furniture are significant fire deterrents.

Heating is the second leading cause of residential fires and the second leading cause of fire deaths. However, heating fires are a larger problem in a single family home than in apartments. Unlike apartments, the heating systems in single family homes are often not professionally maintained.

Arson is both the third leading cause of residential fires and residential fire deaths.

In commercial properties, arson is the major cause of deaths, injuries and dollar loss.

Approximately 88 percent of U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm. However, these alarms are not always properly maintained and as a result, might not work in an emergency. There has been a disturbing increase over the last ten years in the number of fires that occur in homes with non-functioning alarms.

It is estimated that over 40 percent of residential fires and three-fifths of residential fatalities occur in homes without smoke alarms.

Residential sprinklers have become increasingly cost-effective for homes. Currently, few homes are protected by them.

The U.S. Fire Administration has a few tips to help you and your family stay safe this winter.

The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many

Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood burning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly or coming out of storage. Fireplaces or logs. All of these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

Kerosene heaters

Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon build-up. Be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case the heater is tipped over.

Never use fuel burning appliances without proper venting. Burning fuel (kerosene, coal or propane, for example) produces deadly fumes.

Use only the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. Never introduce a fuel into a unit not designed for that type fuel.

Keep kerosene, or other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers, in well ventilated storage areas, outside of the house.

Never fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling. Use caution with cold fuel for it may expand in the tank as it warms up.

Refueling should be done outside of the home (or outdoors).

Keep young children safely away from space heaters—especially when they are wearing night-gowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.

When using a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide.

Wood Stoves and fireplaces

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard. Use them safely.

• Be sure the stove or fireplace is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces,

and proper floor support and protection.

• Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed.

• Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.

• Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.

• Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.

The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.

Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overburning.

Keep kerosene, or other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers, in well ventilated storage areas, outside of the house.

Never fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling. Use caution with cold fuel for it may expand in the tank as it warms up.

Refueling should be done outside of the home (or outdoors).

Keep young children safely away from space heaters—especially when they are wearing night-gowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.

When using a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide.

Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.

Keep flammable materials away from your mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.

Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will

help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.

• If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

Furnace heating

It's important that you have your furnace inspected to insure that it is in good working condition.

Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.

• Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.

• Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or

Other fire safety tips:

Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.

Never use a range or an oven as a supplementary heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.

If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the amp load.

• Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or

other open flame, (otherwise the pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space). Use hot water or a UL-labeled device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.

• If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should strike. Be sure that all windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended.

All floors of the home should be working smoke alarms, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

NEWARK — NJWAN IS hosting its 12th annual symposium "Confronting the Crisis: Positive Women Positive Changes" at the Hilton Gateway from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To register call (732) 846-4462.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital is hosting a workshop called "Emotional Wisdom" at the hospital's Manor Hall from 10:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call (201) 462-1605.

Send your heartbeat calendar events
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Nation's top syphilis rate may be slowing

By Ken Kusmer
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The nation's highest rate of syphilis infection appears to be slowing, although more teen-agers are contracting the disease, health officials said last Friday.

A two-year epidemic of the sexually transmitted disease which has primarily affected blacks living in the central city shows signs of spreading, officials said.

A preliminary report last month by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed Indianapolis had 407 cases reported in 1999, or about 50 cases per 100,000 people, the highest rate in the nation.

The previous year, the first of the current epidemic in Indianapolis, the city had 161 cases and the nation's 7th highest rate of infection. Baltimore had the highest rate that year.

Indianapolis recorded 250 cases through the first nine months of 2000, versus 292 for the same period of 1999, a sign that efforts to curb the disease are taking effect, said Dr. Virginia Caine, director of the county's Health Department. The 60 cases reported for July through September are about half of the 119 reported during the same period last year.

"We feel very good about where we are," Caine said at a news conference in a neighborhood health clinic.

She attributed the drop-off to a program that screens jail inmates, emergency room patients and residents of high-risk neighborhoods for syphilis.

Caine and May or Bart Peterson blamed use of crack cocaine and other drugs, particularly among prostitutes, for the spread of the disease. "Syphilis is both a health problem and a symptom of larger problems," Peterson said.

The mayor said the city hopes to further slow the disease's spread by fighting illegal drug use with treatment programs and other initiatives.

Authorities are concerned about the increase of cases among teen agers. Teen-agers accounted for 10 percent of cases last year, but 17 percent of cases so far this year, said Dr. Janet Arno, medical director of the Bell Flower Clinic, the county's clinic for sexually transmitted diseases.

"Adolescents are sexually active, and they're less likely to seek out medical care," Arno said. They also may be less aware of the symptoms and unaware they're spreading the disease.

The epidemic began in 1998 in the central city but has spread since then to more suburban areas, Caine said.

Michael Butler of the State Department of Health said most of Indiana's cases still are clustered in Indianapolis, but isolated cases are appearing in bordering counties.

Even though few cases have appeared outside the Indianapolis area, the state remains concerned that it could spread via interstate highways that converge in the capital, just as illegal drugs have.

HEARTBEAT

Poll: Six in 10 think prescription drugs very important issue

By Will Lester
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — About six in 10 Americans consider prescription drugs a "very important" issue in their vote for president, an Associated Press poll indicates, and about that many say either they or someone in their family takes such medicines regularly.

Mary Jane Byrd of Alturas, Fla., said she and her husband have managed to pay for their many prescriptions so far but "there will come a time when it will eat up our savings."

"We're also concerned for a lot of other people who are older than us and just on Social Security," said Byrd, 53, noting that her mother has to live hours away so she can be closer to a health maintenance organization that will cover her drug costs.

Two-thirds of people over 55 — one of the most active voting groups — consider prescription drugs very important in their vote, according to the poll conducted for the AP by ICR of Media, Pa.

Four of five people with incomes under \$15,000 — a group less likely to vote — consider the issue very important. Women and blacks were more likely to feel that way than men and whites.

Asked what issue was most important in deciding how to vote, 23 percent said education, which usually leads such lists. Moral values was second, followed by Social Security and Medicare. The poll of 1,007 adults was taken Oct. 4-8 and has an error margin of 3 percentage points.

The high cost of prescription drugs isn't just a sore point for seniors, however.

Tisha McGuire, a 19-year-old insurance clerk at a doc-



tor's office in Lufkin, Texas, already understands the importance of affordable medicine.

"I live with my grandfather, and we take care of him. ... He's on a heart transplant list, and we don't get any help with his medication," she said, noting that some patients at her office struggle with their medicine bills.

"There are older people who come who can't pay for them

correctional officer in Kunston, N.C. "It would be nice to have the coverage, but can they really afford it?"

Pam Sheaf, a 35-year-old Republican from Sumter, S.C., thinks Bush would be better. Married to a retired serviceman, she hopes Bush's promise to strengthen the military includes health care.

"We've lost a lot of medical benefits in the military," she said.

A fourth of those polled said they have had problems in the past year paying medical bills, and this group was more inclined, 69 percent, to think prescription drugs were a very important issue. Of those who have not faced such difficulties, about half thought the issue was very important.

For some, the issue has other implications. Democrat John Cavaudas, a 63-year-old janitor living in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, said high medicine prices are keeping him from retiring. A bottle of heartburn pills initially cost him \$600 for a three-month supply, though the price has dropped to \$285, he said.

"I think they ought to help people who are retired," Cavaudas said. "I don't know what will happen when I retire. There's no problem as long as I keep working. I plan to hang on for a while."

In Michigan, Republican U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham of Auburn Hills and his Democratic challenger, U.S. Rep. Debbie Stabenow of Lansing, are wooing older voters with promises of more affordable prescriptions.

The debate is so key to Stabenow's campaign that she featured prescription drugs in her first television ad in August. Twice this year, she has taken seniors on campaign-sponsored bus tours to Canada to buy cheaper prescription drugs.

Asked which presidential candidate would do a better job of handling prescription drugs for seniors, 46 percent said Democrat Al Gore and 33 percent said Republican George W. Bush. Among Republicans, 21 percent said Gore would be better, and 10 percent of Democrats said Bush.

Gore has proposed prescription drug help to all seniors in the Medicare program. Bush would help the elderly poor and subsidize choice in drug plans for other Medicare beneficiaries.

Bush supporters were about evenly split on whether prescription drugs are very important in their vote considerations, while Gore supporters said by 3-to-1 that it was very important.

"I get the feeling they want people to be dependent on government," said Republican Robert McCain, a retired

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— Harry Alford, President and CEO, National Black Chamber of Commerce

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It's all right to be black and Republican.*

— Bishop Carlton Pearson

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— Dr. Everson Hull, Professor of Economics, Howard University

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ENTERTAINMENT BLURBS

LOS ANGELES — New England Patriots Linebacker Willie McGinest announced the formation of 55 Entertainment, Inc. ("55"), a full-service urban music company whose divisions include artist management, recording label, music publishing and a recording studio.

McGinest, president of 55 Entertainment, has also named Bob Francis vice president and general manager. The company is headquartered in West Los Angeles.

"I am very proud to announce 55 Entertainment, Inc. with my partner Bob Francis," said McGinest. "While the company has been in existence for more than a year, I felt that now was the time to make an official statement because of the tremendous growth we are experiencing amongst our roster and various divisions."

55 Entertainment Inc. consists of four divisions: Song World Management, 55 Records, 55 Music Publishing and Song World Studios. Initially focused on building Song World Management, McGinest and Francis have grown their stable to include such multi-platinum and international hit songwriters as Tamara Savage ("Heartbreak Hotel," Whitney Houston, "First Night," Monica, EMI Publishing), Sauce Money ("I'll Be Missing You," Puff Daddy, "Best Friend," Puff Daddy, "Face Off" with Jay Z; Priority Records rap artist, Universal Music Publishing), and Tabitha Duncan ("Twisted," Keith Sweat, "I Like," Kali Kloze top ten hits). They manage emerging hip-hop artist, Kular (Kub Music Publishing), who is being shopped to labels.

Under the label division, 55 Records, the company has four artists signed including future teen sensation Dan, and is presently negotiating distribution deals. In addition, they have inked an agreement with Mandala Urban Entertainment, whereby they will serve as music supervisors and soundtrack executive producers. Their first film under this deal is "Civil Brand."

55 Music Publishing is their newest division, and they have been signing established and developing songwriters as well as negotiating sub-publishing agreements. Finally, Song World Studio is their wholly owned, state-of-the-art recording facility located in West Hollywood and plays home to the 55 Entertainment roster as well as recording acts.

On TV

New daytime strip featuring best-selling author/lecturer Iyanla Vanzant slated for Fall

Buena Vista Television (BVT) will bring the new daytime talk show "Iyanla" to market for Fall, 2001, it was announced today by Janice Marnell, president of Buena Vista Television.

Iyanla Vanzant, the enormously popular best-selling author and lecturer, will host the one-hour strip.

Barbara Walters and partner Bill Geddie will executive produce "Iyanla." Among their many successes is the innovative talk show, "The View," which airs on ABC Daytime.

Walters said, "When I first saw Iyanla, I thought she was absolutely marvelous. She truly is a breakout talent. I have enough on my plate so I wouldn't take on another project if it wasn't something I thought could be hugely successful, and I think we have that in "Iyanla."



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City News

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World-class

Vol. 1 No. 1

Helping employers find world-class employees

Free



Meet the state's leading expert on labor and her plan for making Newark a job mecca

See page 4



Find out how
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See page 7

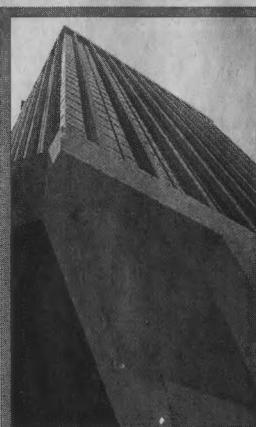
Former welfare recipients
told how they broke out

See page 12

**Electrical
careers
abound.
Find out
where**



See page 10

Regional jobs and
economic outlook

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Lawsuits allege discrimination in Nissan, GM financing

By Marta W. Aldrich
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Tens of thousands of black consumers across the United States have been charged millions of dollars more than white consumers seeking auto loans from two prominent automobile finance companies, two class-action lawsuits contend.

General Motors Acceptance Corp. and Nissan Motors Acceptance Corp. "engineered and participated in a discriminatory kickback system that materially hurt African-American car buyers," said Gary Klein, senior attorney with the National Consumer Law Center in Boston, one of several lawyers and law firms involved in the case.

GMAC and NMAC, the car makers' finance arms, deny the accusations in court documents and argue that studies supporting the accusations are flawed.

Attempts last Sunday to reach officials with the companies were unsuccessful.

"We allege [both companies] should have known that their markup system would have a disproportionately negative impact on the black community," Klein said Sunday.

The suits are seeking a change in the auto loan companies' practices and money back for black consumers who paid more than the objective lending rate the last 11 years. Klein said the amount could be tens of 100 million or more.

The cases were filed in 1998 under seal, but court documents were recently unsealed on motions by news organizations. The details were first reported by The New York Times.

The suits gained class-action status in August from two federal judges who refused to dismiss the suits. The U.S. Justice Department also joined the case in

August.

The suits allege that NMAC and GMAC struck deals with car dealers nationwide to mark up finance rates. They contend that dealers who arranged financing for car buyers with the companies would obtain an objective rate from the lender, then were encouraged to inflate the costs of loans for customers they thought would pay higher rates. The dealers then would split the extra money with the lender without the customers' knowledge.

"Blacks were systematically and pervasively charged more than similarly situated whites," Klein said.

A source close to the case says the markup has been a common industry practice for more than a decade, and extends to white customers as well. But the suits say statistical data shows blacks were more than twice as likely than whites to have their interest rates on car loans increased. And Klein

said blacks typically pay about 50 percent more.

Court documents cite studies showing that in NMAC deals between 1995 and 1998, whites paid an average of 10% more, while blacks paid an average of 10% less. In GMAC deals, whites at three Tennessee dealers during the same period paid an average of 10% more, while blacks paid 10% less.

GMAC argues blacks as a group historically earn less than whites and therefore are more likely to have bad credit. GMAC also cites a national study that says blacks are more likely to have a "pessimistic self-assessment" of their negotiating skills.

Klein said the markup means "nothing to do with credit differences between white and black customers, since compensation for risk is not an element of dealer markup."

The lawsuits were filed in 1998 by two black women upset

with the deals they got at dealerships.

The Nissan lender's trial, scheduled for next September, has been conditionally expanded by U.S. District Judge Todd Campbell to include blacks across the country. The General Motors lender trial, scheduled for February 2002, was limited by U.S. District Judge Alecia Trauger to blacks in Tennessee.

The cases are certified for class-actions against the finance companies only — not dealers. GMAC and NMAC each filed appeals late last month with the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals arguing that they should not be held responsible for the car dealers' conduct.

But the U.S. Justice Department, in a brief filed in August supporting the plaintiffs' action against Nissan, said finance companies should be held liable under the federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

Personal Computing

Study: Blacks online more likely to appreciate Internet value

By Anick Jesdanun
AP Internet Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Although blacks still lag in access to the Internet, a new study finds that those who are connected are more likely than whites to appreciate its value as an information tool.

Forty-five percent of black Americans with online access said they use the Internet to get health care information, compared with 35% of white Net users, the Pew Internet & American Life Project found in its latest study.

The report, released last Sunday, also found blacks were more likely than whites to use the Internet to find information on religion, jobs and housing.

"I'm really struck by the degree to which African-American Internet users have looked to the Internet for economic advancement and lifestyle improvement," said Lee Rainie, the study's director.

Blacks are also more likely to say the Internet helps them pursue hobbies, the study found. On the other hand, whites have a greater tendency to use the Internet for connecting with families and friends.

Daren Dash, who runs a program to equip minorities with low-cost computers and free Internet access, said blacks are more likely to use the Internet to track down information because they have more limited access to similar resources offline.

For example, many urban blacks can't get good health care information and their schools do not offer as many enrichment programs as those in richer areas, said Dash, chief executive of DME Interactive Holdings Inc., a New York-based multimedia company.

The Pew survey was based on random telephone interviews with 12,751 adults from March 1 to Aug. 20. Of that group, 1,501 are black, and 586 of them use the Internet. The findings about blacks online have a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percent.

I'm really struck by the degree to which African-American Internet users have looked to the Internet for economic advancement and lifestyle improvement,

Lee Rainie
Director of the study

The Commerce Department issued a report showing that while more black households now have Internet access, they are still less likely than white households to be connected.

More than 23 percent of black households had access in August 2000, up from 11 percent in December 1998. But the access gap continued to widen, with whites getting connected at a faster clip. Some 46 percent of white households had access in August, up from 30 percent in 1998.

Pew reached similar conclusions about increases in blacks connected to the Internet. Almost half of all blacks online — more than 3.5 million — logged on for the first time in the past year.

Among other findings:

Black women make up 56 percent of the black online population, while white men are evenly split between men and women.

As a group, the black online population has less income and less education than whites with Internet access.

A little more than a third of blacks with access go online on a typical day, compared with some 56 percent for whites. But those numbers may reflect experience: A greater share of blacks online are newcomers, and past studies have found that newcomers in general tend to use the Internet less frequently.



With natural gas costs increasing PSEG encourages Customers to conserve energy, adopt budget plan

Newark — In the face of rising natural gas costs, Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSEG), with 1.6 million natural gas customers in New Jersey, is offering suggestions to help customers conserve energy and manage their energy bills.

In recognition of the recent, unprecedented increase in the price of natural gas, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) granted PSEG a 16 percent increase in the amount the company is permitted to charge customers for natural gas. Between December of this year and April 2001, the utility is also permitted to adjust bills up or down by 2 percent each month to reflect market conditions.

The new rate, as approved, would raise the average natural gas bill for 100 homes from \$70 a month to \$81.20. New Jersey gas companies like PSEG make a profit only on natural gas delivery, and simply pass on the cost of natural gas. The newly approved rate reflects an increase in commodity costs only.

To minimize the impact of the increase, PSEG is encouraging customers to conserve energy by doing the following:

- Have a qualified technician or contractor clean and inspect your furnace annually for safety and efficiency.

- Replace furnace filters regularly.

- Make sure areas around windows and doors are well insulated against drafts. Make sure all windows are closed tightly and locked.

- Insulate your water heater and its water pipes as well as exposed heating system pipes or ducts in unheated basements.

- Close off rooms that you are not using.

- On sunny days, open drapes on the sunny side of the house to trap solar energy and save your heating system extra work.

- Close drapes when the sun goes down to conserve heat.

- Keep your thermostat on a lower setting, preferably 68 or 70 degrees; especially on the coldest days.

If you are about to replace an aging inefficient furnace, oven or hot water heater consider doing it now. High efficiency gas furnaces or boilers can reduce your energy bill and PSEG offers rebates for customers purchasing them. For more information on gas furnace/boiler rebates, call PSEG's Energy Conservation Center at 1-800-354-4444.

PSEG G suggests another way to manage energy costs is to sign up for the PSEG Easy Payment Plan. More than 300,000 customers have taken the guesswork out of paying their energy bills by using this convenient plan.

Under the Easy Payment Plan, PSEG calculates the customer's monthly equal payment by dividing their previous year's energy use by 12. The result is the amount the customer will be billed each month. PSEG CI reviews the account every six months and if the customer's energy use changes, the bill is adjusted up or down accordingly. In the 12th month, the equal payment plan bill includes any credit PSEG owes the customer or any balance the customer owes PSEG.

PSEG G customers can enroll in the Easy Payment Plan by calling PSEG's toll-free customer service number at 1-800-436-8562.

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